

NEW PACKAGING STRATEGIES IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY

ABOUT BOMAG. A global organization, BOMAG Americas, Inc., manufactures and markets a range of light and heavy compaction, asphalt paving, milling, soil stabilization, and asphalt reclamation equipment. The company made a series of acquisitions in 2013 that led to a relocation in 2015 to its current manufacturing plant in Ridgeway, South Carolina, where it employs approximately one hundred people.

THE CHALLENGE. When BOMAG consolidated operations at the Ridgeway plant, the company's small parcel packing area became a significant issue. The plant was not only responsible for the production of large highway class pavers, but also managed a large aftermarket parts program, where parts came in a wide array of sizes, shapes, and weights. Improper packaging methods were leading to damage complaints and customer rejections, and BOMAG needed to set up a new supply chain while managing the relocation of the business and orienting new employees to the new facility. The changes came at the start of the company's peak selling season, and BOMAG reached out to the South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP), a NIST MEP affiliate, for assistance.

"Any time I have a project, a problem, or a need to get something done in a timely, and efficient fashion related to our business, my first thought is always SCMEP," explained Dennis Dedrick, Strategic Purchasing Manager. "The staff is excellent to work with, and they are not happy until you are happy. When I do projects with SCMEP, I know that they will always 'over deliver' on what was promised."

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. SCMEP worked with BOMAG to develop a more robust "small package" packing area, focusing on proper packing techniques to help reduce the amount of damaged freight. The project covered time studies, workstation layouts, packing processes, materials selection, and the entire packing area layout to improve productivity. SCMEP also conducted research on shipping cartons and weight capacities to develop a method for employees to use in selecting packaging type. The improvements reduced packaging costs and increased floor space, as the company decreased the number of box sizes from 25 down to 6. BOMAG increased throughput and efficiency and greatly reduced the number of damaged shipments, saving thousands of dollars in freight and scrap parts. The company is applying the principles from this project to other areas of the organization to create a leaner operation.

"SCMEP is not a theoretical think tank, but a 'work tested' group that knows what is going on in the real world of manufacturing. They know how to take a problem and define and implement solid solutions. They have been a great resource and will continue to be an integral part of our business."

-Dennis Dedrick, Manager, Strategic Purchasing

RESULTS



Eliminated **19** different box sizes, saving on packaging costs and floor space



Reduced number of damaged shipments



Saving thousands of dollars in freight and scrap parts



Applying Lean principles across the organization

CONTACT US



250 Berryhill Road
Suite 512
Columbia, SC 29210



(803)252-6976



www.scmeep.org

SCMEP

SOUTH CAROLINA
MANUFACTURING
EXTENSION
PARTNERSHIP